

Home (1918) Department.

Education

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 632

DATED 16 5 18

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Trades School.-

Requesting the Officer in charge of the
Department of Industries to issue over his signature the
press communique relating to the Madras -----

2
House (Ex), Dept 4

A-2
Memorandum No. 244 dated 14.2.18

It has been suggested to Government that in order to give ~~under publicity~~ to the part played in industrial education by the Madras Trades School, a press communique detailing the scope of the institution, the conditions of admission and the nature of the instruction ^(in the school) given in the several subjects should be issued. The officer in charge of the Dept. of Industries is requested to furnish ^(Government) with his views on the suggestion and, if he approves, to prepare and submit to Government a draft of the communique.

14/2/18

14/2/18

14/2

To

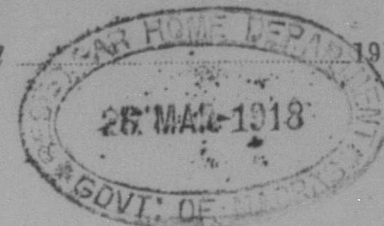
The Officer in charge
of the Dept. of Industries.

Recd 14/2/18
13.2.18

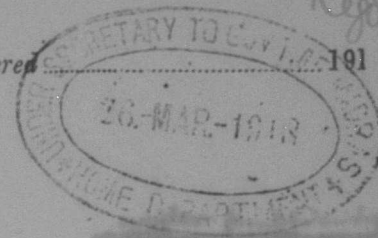
DEPARTMENT.

C.F.-29.

Received



Registered



Subject.

Press Communique detailing the scope of the Madras Trades School.—Submitting Draft of a

ENCLOSURES.

No. One.

Spare copies

No. G. en. 443.Station Madras., Dated the 23rd March 1918.

From (Name) C.A. Innes, Esq., I.C.S.,
 (Designation) Director of Industries,
MADRAS.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
 Home Education, Department.

Sir,

With reference to Government Memorandum No. 244 A
 —2 dated 14th February 1918, I have the honour to state
 that I quite agree with the suggestion made therein and to
 submit a draft of a Press Communique detailing the scope et
 etc., of the Madras Trade School.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Director of Industries.

R.N.

25-3-18.

113

Proposals have recently been submitted to Government for the establishment on a permanent basis in a building of its own of the Government Trades School, and since the evidence of Sir Clement Simpson before the Cotton Commission has again brought into prominence the question of technical and industrial education in the Madras Presidency, a brief account of the aims and object of this school may be of interest.

The question how mechanics and artisans should be trained is a very vexed one. There are a number of industrial schools in the Presidency where training in turners' and fitters' work, blacksmiths' work and carpentry is given, but the criticism is frequently made that the training in these schools is not really practical. It is suggested that the schools do not attract the right class of student and that the students though they may be taught the use of tools are not taught the value of time in the use of these tools. The principle in fact is laid down that in trades where machinery is used the proper training school is the factory. On the other hand it is admitted that the training in commercial workshops, practical though it may be, is frequently narrow. The tendency is to keep an apprentice to one shop instead of putting him through all, with a result that a lad who begins as a fitter frequently remains a fitter and acquires no experience of other branches of the trade. Complaints are also made of the defective education of the apprentices and workmen. Many of the older mechanics in workshops in Madras are entirely illiterate, while the lads who now join as apprentices frequently have not had the right sort of education. Their education has been too exclusively literary. They have not been taught to use their hands, and their knowledge of drawing is frequently defective.

Sir Clement Simpson is entitled to speak with authority on the subject of technical and industrial education since the day and night schools attached to the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills represent an admirable attempt to deal with the problems mentioned. The day schools cater for half timers and the children of workmen in the mills. When they were first opened, general education alone was imparted, and it was found that the tendency was for the scholars to become writers and clerks in the mills. This tendency has now been corrected by opening manual training classes in such subjects as tailoring, carpentry and foundry work with the result that there are now more applicants from the schools for admission to the machine shops of the mills than there are vacancies. The night schools provide instruction

for the workmen in the mills not only in reading, writing and arithmetic but also in technical subjects such as sizing and machine drawing.

The Government Trades School is another attempt to tackle at least a part of the problem. It is based on the assumption that apprentices can best learn their trade in a commercial workshop and it meets the criticism made regarding the class of students attracted by the existing Industrial schools by admitting only apprentices or workmen from the shops in Madras. Instruction is provided in a gradually increasing variety of subjects, and while the instruction is thoroughly practical in character, the students are also taught the elements of the theory of the work they do in the shops.

The School was opened in ^{December} October 1916 with classes in Mechanical Engineering and Plumbing, these two subjects being selected on the advice of Mr. Madeley, Special Drainage Engineer with the Corporation of Madras, and Mr. Coats, the Corporation Engineer, as the subjects in which trades classes were most urgently required, and Mr. W. H. Lockley, Manager of the Beehive Foundry, and Mr. A. Hillier of Messrs. Oakes and Co., were appointed lecturers. The general arrangements were based on the model of the system adopted by the Scotch Educational Department in the working of continuation classes in Scotland. The Syllabuses were kept fairly simple for the first year's work and leaned heavily to the practical side in order that the students might obtain immediate tangible benefit from the classes. The time table, with the cordial cooperation of firms, was arranged on the understanding that the classes should be held partly in working hours in the employers' time and partly after working hours in the students' time. A merely nominal fee was charged and the prospectus provided for the return of this fee to the students who attended 80 per cent of the lectures. The course was confined to 40 lectures. The school was housed in the upper floor of a rented building in Mukker Nallamuthu Chetty street in George Town.

The classes were admittedly an experiment, but the result of the first year's work showed that there need be no fears about the success of the experiment. Both classes filled well, and the students were so appreciative of the value of the instruction imparted that the nominal limit of ^{one} hour for each lecture was never adhered to, the lectures extending

to two and even three hours. The results of the examinations at the end of the term were also satisfactory. All the students in the Plumbing class passed the practical examination seven being placed in the first class, and 12 out of 17 passed in the Mechanical Engineering class. The examiners were Messrs. Madeley and Coats. Accordingly last September the range of classes was extended, and a third whole time lecturer was appointed in the person of Mr. Verghese, a trained Electrical Engineer with several years practical experience. Apart from classes in Mechanical Engineering (1st and 2nd years), and Plumbing (1st and 2nd years) new classes have been opened in electric wiring, machine drawing and mechanical drawing for maistries, while twenty apprentices from the Perambur works attend twice a week for instruction in machine drawing and elementary applied mechanics. The electric wiring class was started at the suggestion of Sir Clement Simpson in view of the complaints made of the inefficiency of the average wiremen in Madras. A movement has been on foot for sometime past for a system of licensing wiremen in the same way as plumbers are licensed by the Corporation of Madras, and the class has been started as a necessary preliminary to a system of licensing should one be instituted. The maistries drawing class provides instruction in the vernacular for wood working and building maistries who do not know English, and aims at providing sufficient instruction to enable them to understand the working drawings required in high class work. At first only a few carpenters from the Cabinet Making works of Messrs. Wrenn Bennett and Company attended the class, but as the ^{existence} ~~existence~~ of the class became better known, other maistries came in and the class is now well attended.

The number of students attending the different classes is now 159 and the school has already overflowed into a second rented building in Moore street. The need for additional accommodation however is urgent, and what the school now wants is a building of its own. The class rooms and workshops will be required only in the mornings and evenings, and if a building can be secured it may be possible to combine with continuation classes a vocational school for the mechanical engineering trades designed to supply the firms in Madras with the properly educated apprentices as well as to pro-

6/2.
provide continuation classes for those apprentices. In the school no attempt will be made to turn out skilled workmen. Instruction will be provided in colloquial English, workshop arithmetic and manual training, and the object will be merely to turn out useful apprentices. This scheme however is only in the initial stage. If it materializes, one difficulty now experienced in the Trades school will be overcome, namely a defective knowledge of English on the part of some of the students and a general unevenness in the standard of general education.

One interesting result of the establishment of the school has been the awakening of a healthy interest in the minds of the younger workmen and senior apprentices in the problems connected with their everyday employment. They are being roused to the fact that there are more aspects to their work than the mere daily task and that there are openings available for well educated youths who are willing and able to study the connection between the different workshops and processes in a large industrial establishment. The immediate result of this awakening has been the formation of an association amongst the students themselves with the avowed object of securing mutual help in study and of meeting to discuss new developments affecting their work, and the formation of a reference library of books likely to be of value and help to them in their outlook on life and work.

The school has been visited by His Excellency the Governor, the Directors of Public Instruction in Madras, Bengal and Ceylon, and the Director of Industries in Bombay, but so far, possibly owing to the fact that the classes are held at odd hours in rented buildings in the most closely populated part of George Town, comparatively few members of the general public seem to be aware of its existence, and employers of labour though they have co-operated by sending apprentices to the school have rarely visited the classes at work. The classes are held from 4-30 to 6-30 P.M. every evening except on Saturday and Sunday, from 8 A.M. to 10-A.M. on Wednesdays and Thursdays and from 2 to 4 P.M. on the same two days. The Superintendent and staff are always pleased to receive the visits of persons interested in technical and industrial education, and will welcome suggestions and criticisms especially from employers of skilled labour.

NOTES.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Finance Committee:-

"Para 44. In reply to an enquiry from the Hon'ble Mr. Krishna Rao for further particulars regarding the proposed entertainment of a lecturer on Rs.250 per mensem for the Madras Trades School the Hon'ble Mr. Rajagopala Achariyar explained that the school had hitherto been carrying on with temporary lecturers and Government hoped later on to place it on a more permanent basis.

On the suggestion of the Hon'ble Mr. Ranga Achariyar to issue a press communique on the subject of the Trades School, Mr. Rajagopala Achariyar said he believed a communique had already been issued by the Director of Industries in the form of a prospectus; the point was noted"

Office note on the above:-

(H) The Trades School is continued on a temporary basis, please see G.O.No. 728, dated the 2nd June 1917, and G.O.No.997, dated the 31st July 1917. Mr. Innes will no doubt submit proposals for the permanent retention of the school after sufficient experience has been gained of its working. A prospectus concerning the working of the school has already been issued by Mr. Innes -please see para 3 of his letter printed in G.O.No.728, dated the 2nd June 1917. It is for consideration whether a formal press communique should now be issued. If so, Mr. Innes may be asked to submit a draft for the approval of Government. A draft memo is submitted for approval.

N.K.
13-2-18

H.B.
14-2-18.
R.R.R.
14-2-18.

Memo No. 244A-2 of 14.2.18

Mr. 875. From the office in charge
of the Dept. of Ind. M. & L. 3 of the 23-3-18.

pages 3 to 6 of rep.

Mr. Innes submits a draft press
communiqué giving particulars
relating to the Madras Trades School.
With reference to the portion
marked A on page 5 of the
current file it is submitted that
~~an~~ ^{the} a proposal to ~~be~~ open
^(in the Trades School)
a class for turning out apprentices
has been made by Mr. Innes
in his ~~note~~ general note on
the development of industrial
education in the Presidency.
The file dealing with the general
note has been referred back to
Mr. Innes for further remarks on
certain points. Mr. Innes has
also proposed in that connection
the permanent retention
of the Madras Trades School. It
^{appears rather premature to publish the proposals}
2. For orders whether the press
^(as it is)
communiqué may be issued
if it is considered that portions
which do not directly concern
the school may be left out
the revised draft ^(below) in which such
portions

9
portions are omitted is for approval.

SK
14.18

NK
8/11/18

S. for approval.
5.18

I would let Mr. Jones draft stand
(except correction of errors)

10/4/18

H.M.

Mr. Jones shall
in his own language
to the public. It should
go out as his speech
and as his responsibility
as head of the dept.

13/5/18



4
10

A draft order is submitted
for approval.

SK
14/5/18.

NH
15/5/18

S.

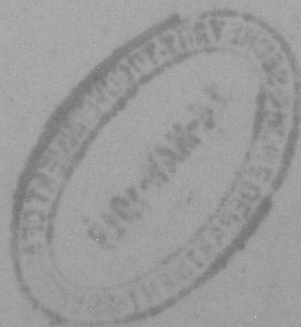
(I state that in his letter

of 10.4.18 (p. 3 ante) S. referred only
to clerical or orthographical errors)

Letter

15/5/18

16/5/18



A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.

A	A	A	A	A	A	A
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